
Title: Sermon of Virtue IV

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The Virtuous Quest

Here at the Holy Church of the Virtues our main aim is to stand for the Virtues. Our reason for existing is to spread the Virtues to all whom we can reach and guide them to become Lightbringers in our society. Even if we were able to convert every soul within our lands to following the Virtues, we would still be required to provide guidance, supply counsel to those who strayed, and make the definitions of the Virtues pure, absolute and uniform throughout the land.

We would also have to pursue achieving Balance between our people's actions in fulfillment of the Virtues. Following the Virtues is a never-ending quest, as there exists many facets and depths to the Virtues. The Balancing of the Virtues is an esoteric goal, one of delicate intricacies and all encompassing efforts. But the luxury of much of this must wait, as first and foremost the Virtues must be restored as the guiding touchstone of all who are members of our society.

Currently we have about our lands covenants, guilds, leagues, federations, alliances,

partnerships, coalitions
and numerous other names
used to unify peoples for
like purpose who are not
dedicated to the Virtues.
One of the more
repugnant of these are
those who follow Chaos.
Following that there are
those who follow Order
or Balance. Then there
are those who dedicate
themselves to violence,
some with purpose, some
for pay, some just for
the pure pleasure, and
still others needing to
satisfy their bloodlust.
Even these must for now
be held in check and
prevented from spreading
their disdain for the
Virtues.

Converting them to the
path of the Virtues must
wait until we have
returned ourselves to the
path of the Virtues. Yes,
I said, we too need to
return to the Virtuous
path. Who in this room
can in reflection and with
Honesty state that they
have never strayed from
the Virtues. I know I
cannot make such a
statement. To do so
would be to stray once
again by forsaking
Honesty by speaking an
untruth. So, yes, we must
first return to and find
the path of Virtue
before we can begin to
ask others to follow us
in Virtue.

Even once we have
returned to the path of
the Virtues, we shall still
need to guard carefully
not to stray from the
true path of Virtue. This
would be for most a
lifelong struggle. We do
not have a lifetime to
spend on this; we must

make haste to return to the Virtuous path so we will be permitted to lead others along the Virtuous path. As the faithful and the leaders within our society it falls to us to be the first, to be in the forefront of this reawakening of Virtue for our lands. Then we must lead those close to us, within our homes, guilds, alliances, towns, cities, and wherever else we congregate, back to the path of the Virtues.

This too would usually be an undertaking that could span generations. Once again, we do not have generations, we have but the here and now. There has been enormous turning from the Virtues in recent times. Even some that once were sworn to the Virtuous path have strayed and taken up other standards. We are at a crossroads where our actions may determine whether our lands will ever return to the Virtues. We must first devote ourselves to the Virtues, immediately and totally. Then we can work to purify our closest friends and allies in the path of the Virtues.

With their aid we will tend the Virtuous ones allowing Virtue to once again spread among those who have lost their way due to indifference or lack of guidance. But this is just the beginning. Once we have returned all within our spheres of influence, then and only then can we begin to plan to spread the Virtues and convert those who have intentionally revoked

their standing in Virtue.
That will be our final
test, our final battle.
May we tread in the
path of Virtue all the
while as we step forward
on our quest, our final
and most important quest.

For Whom The Virtue Tolls

There are those who
claim the Virtues are the
exclusive right of the
human race. They say
that only those of pure
Human bloodline may
attain ultimate Virtue. By
this, they condemn all
other races to be
inferior and incapable of
Virtue. Even further, they
condemn those of mixed
racial backgrounds to have
lesser capabilities and to
be further removed from
Virtue. But are such
beliefs in accordance with
the Virtues themselves?
To answer this I spent
much time in research of
both the Virtues and the
history of the Virtues
becoming the guidance of
our society. Here is what
I discovered and the
conclusions I reached.

One claim is that only
the human race is capable
of realizing the Virtues
and the other than human
races are simply incapable
of acting with Virtue.
They claim that only the
human race is capable of
Compassion yet we see
compassion shown by many
in the animal world, let
alone amongst sentient
beings that make up the
non-human races. The
same argument is made
for Sacrifice
notwithstanding that even
a mother bird will tempt
a predator to safeguard
her nest. Would anyone

beg to say that the
non-human races are
lesser being than birds? I
would hope not.

Many of these claims of
the Virtues being the
sole propriety of
humankind is out of fear
and suspicion of those
who are different than
themselves. The root of
this is fear and
superstition which stems
from many things; general
and often mutual
mistrust, cloaking of each
race in their own shroud
of secrecy, difference of
appearance, distinctive
histories, varied religious
practices, unique
preferences, unfamiliar
views, different rituals,
misunderstood tribal lore,
just generally troubling
differences in all areas
of life. All of these
misgivings show lack of
the Virtues and lack of
effort to implement the
Virtues. Honesty between
the races will foster
understanding.
From this understanding
we can proceed to Honor
our differences while
building bridges to join us
together. On the way to
joining together, all sides
will be called upon to
make Sacrifice to assuage
perceived inequities.
Finding the path that
leads through these
inequities will require
Justice to be served to
preserve the just
Spirituality that is the
basis for much Valor on
each side. To respect our
differences will require
the Humility to admit
that ours is not
necessarily the sole option
for progress. And lastly,
the driving force to
achieve a harmonious unity

in our society is
Compassion, an unbridled,
uncompromising, all
encompassing Compassion.

Now, there are those who
will claim that Lord
British intended the
Virtues solely for humans.
Their evidence supporting
this claim is the lack of
non-humans accorded
positions in his Court and
amongst his ministers and
other positions of
influence. The problem in
this logic is two-fold.
First, during the reign of
Lord British, the lands
were solely inhabited by
humankind. The non-human
influx came subsequent to
Lord British's rule and
introduction of the
Virtues as the basis of
our society. When the
Virtues were first
implemented, they were
applied and intended for
all in our society, from
Lord British himself to
the lowliest of those
inhabiting our lands.